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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/766,675	01/27/2004	Laurence Hubert	D/99398QC	3040

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, MAIKHANH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/766,675	HUBERT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Maikhahan Nguyen	2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 11/22/2006 to the original application filed 01/21/2000.

Claims 1-16 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended. Claims 1, 6, and 11 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- The phrase “*an application program*” (claim 1, line 12) renders the claims indefinite. It is not clear if it is referring to “*an application program*” recited at line 4.

- The phrase “*an application program*” (claim 6, line 12) renders the claims indefinite. It is not clear if it is referring to “*an application program*” recited at line 4.
- The phrase “*an application program*” (claim 11, lines 8-9) renders the claims indefinite. It is not clear if it is referring to “*an application program*” recited at line 4.
- All claims that depend upon indefinite claims (claims 2-5, 7-10, and 12-16) also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language; or " (Emphasis added.)

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by MacLean et al. (US Patent No. 6505219, filed 01/27/1999).

As to claim 1:

MacLean teaches a computer-readable storage medium encoded with data for processing by a data processing system (*see the Abstract and col.2, line 45-col.3, line 12*), the data comprising:

a meta-document for tracking and storing all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document comprising document information, processing information, and metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information (e.g., *Using the metadata of the task document, the process description provides an index into the history of the task document/metadata of the tasks are indexed by accessing a task of a specified instance of the process description/ by using the process description of the process management system as an index into the history of a task document, information of process management systems is organized for convenient retrieval when needed to execute tasks that have yet been completed. To most effectively define the index, the links between the task documents and the document resources should be created at the time the task is executed/Previously executed tasks are used to provide an index into a historical record of relationships between task documents and their resources in relation to the process description, thereby providing context to others completing unexecuted tasks*) [see the Abstract; col.3, lines 1-12; and col. 8, lines 45-52];

wherein the processing information comprises all information pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document (e.g., *The process management system uses the process descriptions to both manage ongoing tasks as well as historical information concerning pending tasks defining the process description. Advantageously, users of the process management system are provided with means for understanding the context in which the past tasks in the process description were carried out, thereby providing insight into the current task. In effect, each completed task is associated with a perspective that relates task activity to the current task being performed; col. 2, lines 45-59*); and

wherein the metadata comprises all associated metadata pertaining to each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document (e.g., *the task document 402 includes metadata 404, which is referenced by links 403, and content 406...the task document 402 includes metadata 404 as well as embedded metadata 409... metadata is stored either with the document content 406 or separate from the document content 406 using links 403. The document content 406 comprises one or more sections. Each section of the document content 406 can be made up of any combination of text, graphics, audio, or video, or a uniform resource locator (URL) identifying any one of the combinations... the metadata 404 of the task document 402 is made up of document properties 407 and document resources 408, each of which are identified in the task*

document 402 using URLs or the like. The document properties 407 as illustrated in FIG. 4 are recorded in a table of name-value pairs...the document resources 408 for the task document 402 have name-location pairs as well as links to resource properties 411 and relation properties 410; col. 6, lines 6-55).

As to claim 2:

MacLean teaches information pertaining to transformation of the document information (e.g., *By recording document metadata 404 in a storage location separate from the content 406 of the task document 402, metadata for that task document 402 is advantageously preserved when copies of the task document 402 are distributed electronically; col. 6, lines 26-40*).

As to claim 3:

MacLean teaches a user comment to the document information (e.g., *These resources are used to keep track of external artifacts that are used to complete a task. The task documents are likely to be very specific to the particular task. In the absence of resources in the resource folder 726, there may be little or no information in the document folder 714 that indicate the sources used to complete the task. Advantageously, the resource folder 726 aids someone who returns to the review content in the document folder 714 by providing help to that person in understanding the history of the evolution of the documents in the documents folder 714. In addition, the resource window provides the person with access to resources or information*

about resources that were used to produce (e.g., print, scan, enhance) the documents in the document folder 714. Information about resources includes information that identifies the particular resource used and any comments about the manner in which the resource was used; and col. 9, lines 41-61).

As to claim 4:

MacLean teaches information pertaining to distribution of the meta-document (e.g., *By recording document metadata 404 in a storage location separate from the content 406 of the task document 402, metadata for that task document 402 is advantageously preserved when copies of the task document 402 are distributed electronically; col. 6, lines 26-40*).

As to claim 5:

MacLean teaches an application program, embedded on the object, responsive to execution by the data processing system, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document (e.g., *the relationship between the process description 310 and metadata 312... the relationship between the metadata 312 and resources stored in document store 316 ... metadata 313 identifies the resources documents 206 and 208 associated task document 201 recorded in document store 316. The documents in document store 316 include documents that are resources, which were used to formulate that task document 201; col.5, line 55- col.6, line 40; see also Fig.3*).

As to claim 6:

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, MacLean teaches:

- transmitting the meta-document to a source (*see Fig. 2 and col. 4, line 62-col. 5, line 40*);
- parsing the meta-document, at the source, for extracting stored processing information and metadata (*e.g., documents created or information analyzed at earlier stages in the process description may be necessary to complete tasks at later stages in the process description. Thus, the reliability of the results of a task at a later stage may be dependent on the output of a task at an earlier stage the documents used to derive the output of the task (i.e., task documents) at the earlier stage are provided to those performing tasks at a later stage in the process description; col. 4, lines 16-43*); and
- storing processing information pertaining to transmitting and parsing at the source and associated metadata on the meta-document (*e.g., the relationship between the process description 310 and metadata 312 ... the relationship between the metadata 312 and resources stored in document store 316 ... metadata 313 identifies the resources documents 206 and 208 associated task document 201 recorded in document store 316. The documents in document store 316 include documents that are resources, which were used to formulate that task document 201 ... By recording document metadata 404 in a storage location separate from the content 406 of the task document 402, metadata for that task document 402 is*

advantageously preserved when copies of the task document 402 are distributed electronically; col.5, line 55- col.6, line 40; see also Fig.3).

As to claim 7:

MacLean teaches a tool, embedded on the object, responsive to a processing of the meta-document, for generating and storing processing information and associated metadata on the meta-document, wherein the parsing step is performed by the tool (*see Figs. 3-4 and the associated text*).

As to claim 8:

Refer to the discussion of claim 7 above for rejection.

As to claim 9:

MacLean teaches a second tool, embedded on the object, for the parsing and extracting selected processing information stored on the meta-document, and further comprising the step of: parsing the meta-document for extracting the selected processing information and associated metadata; and distributing the extracted selected processing information to the source (*col. 6, lines 26-40 & see Figs. 7-8 and the associated text*).

As to claim 10:

Refer to the discussion of claim 7 above for rejection.

As to claim 11:

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated herein in full. Additionally, MacLean teaches a plurality of sources, each source located at a different location (e.g., *the document resources 408 for the task document 402 have name-location pairs as well as links to resource properties 411 and relation properties 410. The resource properties 411 are similar to document properties 407 in that they are a table of name-value pairs...the document resources are recorded using a resource object 410, which is defined using a table of resource name-value pairs. The resource object 410 provides the operator with a mechanism for specifying other documents used to develop the content of the task document 402, but also the particular relationship between the task document and the reference document or object; col. 6, line 41-col.7, line 6.*

As to claims 12-16:

Refer to the discussions of claims 2-6 above for rejections.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 11/22/2006 have been fully considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection necessitated by Applicant's amendments.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record, listed on PTO 892 provided to Applicant is considered to have relevancy to the claimed invention. Applicant should review each identified reference carefully before responding to this office action to properly advance the case in light of the prior art.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhahan Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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PRIMARY EXAMINER